

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

TO AMEMBASSY PANAMA

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PORT AU PRINCE 2840

PANAMA FOR DEMARCO, DIRECTOR, LATIN AMERICAN BRANCH, GAO
FROM AMBASSADOR

EO 11652 N/A

TAGS: AMGT, EAID, HA

SUBJECT: PROPOSED VISIT BY GAO REPRESENTATIVES

1. HAVE JUST RECEIVED YOUR LETTER OF OCTOBER 21 PROPOSING A FOLLOW-UP EVALUATION AT THIS MISSION, LIMITED THIS TIME TO A REVIEW OF FIELD IMPLEMENTATION OF REQUIREMENTS ESTABLISHED BY SECTION 110 (A) OF FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT. YOU SUGGEST A ONE-WEEK REVIEW BEGINNING NOVEMBER 24, 1975.

2. I AM BECOMING CONCERNED ABOUT OUR MISSION'S ABILITY TO FUNCTION ADEQUATELY DURING COMING WEEKS UNDER ALL MANNER OF VISITATIONS, INCLUDING VARIOUS INSPECTIONS APPARENTLY COVERING SOME OF THE SAME GROUND. YOUR OFFICE COMPLETED A TWO-WEEK REVIEW OF THIS POST'S OPERATIONS IN AUGUST. U.S. AID AUDITORS BASED IN PANAMA ARE PRESENTLY COMPLETING AN OVER-ALL AUDIT OF THE MISSION'S OPERATIONS FOR THE TWO-YEAR PERIOD JUNE 30, 1973 - JUNE 30, 1975. THE AUDIT WILL, OF COURSE, INCLUDE A REVIEW OF THE MISSION'S IMPLEMENTATION

OF SECTION 110. IN ADDITION, A TEAM OF FOREIGN SERVICE INSPECTORS ARE ARRIVING NOVEMBER 21 TO CONDUCT A TWO-WEEK INSPECTION OF THE POST'S OPERATIONS. THIS IS OCCURRING AT A TIME WHEN TDY VISITORS TO MISSION HAVE REACHED A NEW HIGH WHILE AT THE SAME TIME KEY MEMBERS OF THE MISSION ARE BEING CALLED TO WASHINGTON FOR EXAMINATION OF OUR PROPOSED PROGRAMS.

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3. IF YOUR REPRESENTATIVES COULD TIME VISIT SOME WEEKS LATER, MISSION WILL BE MORE FREE TO COOPERATE AND SHOULD HAVE DEVELOPED BY THEN IN MORE USABLE FORM DATA PERTINENT TO SECTION 110(A). IF NONE-THELESS YOU BELIEVE THAT THE PROPOED GAO REVIEW IS NOT DUPLICATIVE AND MUST BE UNDERTAKEN AT THIS TIME, I WOULD SUGGEST YOU CONSIDER A REDUCTION IN THE PERIOD OF THE ON-SITE GAO REVIEW FROM ONE WEEK TO TWO DAYS (NOVEMBER 25-26). THIS WOULD EASE EMBASSY'S SUPPORT PROBLEMS BUT SHOULD PERMIT YOUR INSPECTORS, ONE OF WHOM IS ALREADY ACQUANITED WITH THE MISSION, TIME TO OBTAIN THE KIND OF INFORMATION WE ARE NOW IN A POSITION TO SUPPLY.

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